



## Lincoln Conservation District

PO Box 2170

Eureka, MT 59617

Phone: 406-287-2233

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EXHIBIT 2  
DATE Jan 27, 2011  
HB 6

[www.lincolncd.org](http://www.lincolncd.org)

[lincolncd@interbel.net](mailto:lincolncd@interbel.net)

January 24, 2011

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Attention: Ms. Pam Smith, Program Manager

1625 Eleventh Avenue

PO Box 201601

Helena, Montana 59620-1601

SUBJECT: Letter of Support Sinclair Creek Watershed Improvement Project  
Lincoln Conservation District, Eureka, Montana

Dear Ms. Smith:

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the Lincoln Conservation District in support of the proposed Sinclair Creek Watershed Improvement Project and Renewable Resources Grant and Loan application. Since 2008, the Lincoln Conservation District has been working to address resource concerns in the Sinclair Creek watershed with a diverse group of stakeholders including the Lincoln County Commissioners, Lincoln County Road Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and local landowners. This project will serve multiple public and natural resource benefits including conserving water, addressing public safety concerns, and restoring channel and floodplain functions along a 750 foot section of Sinclair Creek, a State of Montana water quality impaired, 303(d) listed stream. In addition, it will contribute directly to the local economy through the employment of local contractors and local suppliers in Lincoln County and the Town of Eureka.

The DNRC has been supportive of this project since its inception in 2008 through the award of a project planning grant to the Lincoln Conservation District. These funds were used to develop a conceptual restoration plan for the project area and to secure US Fish and Wildlife Service stimulus funds for final engineering. As of January 2011, the engineering has been completed and we are seeking funds through the RRGL program to carry this project through the construction phase.

Your support of this project will be instrumental in ensuring this important project is implemented for the benefit of Montana's natural resources and the citizens of Lincoln County. We encourage you to support our application, and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lincoln Conservation District

Susan Ennenbach  
Chairperson

SE/bl

Oue Hanson  
Chairman  
837-6821  
David Christensen  
Vice Chairman  
837-4565  
Lamont Kinrade  
837-7050



Paul Rana  
837-1191  
Thomas M. Weller, PE  
755-8888  
Mike Koopal  
Whitefish Lake  
Institute  
862-4327

220 Swan River Road, Bigfork, MT 59911

20 January, 2011

**RE: Flathead County – Bigfork Stormwater System Improvements Support Request**

**ATTN: Chairman McNutt**

Dear Long Range Planning Committee;

This letter is written on behalf of the Bigfork Stormwater Advisory Committee (BSAC) to request Legislative support of the Bigfork Stormwater Upgrade Project by approving Flathead County's request

The first phase of the Stormwater Upgrade project is under contract and will be implemented this spring with completion of the Grand Ave. basin stormwater upgrade. This upgrade includes customized effluent treatment systems based on data gathered from the on-going Sampling and Analysis program. The effluent treatment design incorporates Best Management Practices where appropriate and, the system is designed to meet MS-4 effluent standards. This same approach is planned for the remaining phases of the project.

Through the BSAC and the Flathead County Board of Commissioners, this project will continue to employ professional planning and implementation of the Bigfork Stormwater Upgrade Project in a phased approach. Implementation of the Bigfork Stormwater Upgrades for all phases of the Work will provide a small, but significant step in reducing pollutant loads into Flathead Lake. Legislative approval of this request by Flathead County is integral to the successful completion of the project.

Sincerely,

David Christensen – BSAC Vice Chairman

***Dedicated to protecting local water resources,  
Bigfork Stormwater Advisory Committee***

Hill County Conservation District  
206 25<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Suite 2  
Havre, MT 59501

January 19, 2011

Re: Hill County Conservation District grant application

Committee Members:

Due to the severe winter conditions in the Hill County area we are not able to personally attend the grant hearings. Road conditions and the uncertain nature of the committee schedule make travel plans a challenge considering our weather and snow conditions.

Hill County has applied for funding a Russian Olive removal project which encompasses the Sage Creek and Milk River riparian areas. Cooperating landowners with Russian Olive trees have been identified, details are in the grant application. Russian Olive has been identified as a invasive species especially in riparian areas along rivers and streams. This is especially evident along the Milk River itself. Sage Creek (major tributary of Milk) has a few concentrated areas and then scattered trees. The Sage Creek problems can be addressed and Russian Olive virtually eradicated at the present time. The problem only becomes worse as time goes on as is evident along the Milk. The grant monies would give us a good start on the problem on the Milk River as it comes into Montana in Hill County from Canada.

I would urge the committee give our application favorable consideration. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Tom Jurenka  
Hill County Conservation District, Chairman

# **TOWN OF CULBERTSON**

PO Box 351 787-5271

CULBERTSON, MONTANA

E-mail: townculb@nemontel.net

*Office of The Mayor*

January 19, 2011

Long Range Planning Committee  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601

RE: CULBERTSON WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Long Range Planning Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of the Culbertson Wastewater System Improvements Project. Our original wastewater collection system was constructed in 1945. The Town has made periodic upgrades to the collection system and lift station over the years but no major rehabilitation measures have been implemented in over 20 years. This has left a substantial portion of our wastewater collection system in a deteriorated and failing state. Several areas of the system have large cracks and holes in the collection pipes allowing for sewage to leak from the system. Additionally, the Town struggles to maintain flow through the gravity system and has doubled efforts to periodically clean collection lines, adding substantial operation and maintenance costs. The existing lift station has a number of deficiencies, with the most critical being lack of backup power and clogging problems. The lift station has overflowed in the past discharging raw sewage to the adjacent ditch which is a violation of the Clean Water Act. The Town's existing lagoon treatment system lacks the capacity for proper treatment due to severe sludge accumulation. This has left the system in state in which it does not provide proper treatment and leaks that partially treated water into the groundwater table below at rates above those acceptable to the Montana DEQ. These deficiencies could lead to critical system failures and severe fines if they are not addressed in the near future.

As with is the case with the majority of rural communities in Montana, Culbertson generates sufficient funds to operate and maintain the wastewater system however cannot generate the funding necessary to rehabilitate the existing system without placing a

severe burden on the residents of our community. The Town has applied for a TSEP Grant in the amount of \$625,000 and a DNRC RRGL Grant of \$100,000 to assist with the proposed upgrades to our wastewater system. Along with the grant funds the Town will still have to take out a \$2,316,200 loan to complete the project. Even with the assistance of these two funding sources the water and sewer rates for our residents will be \$71.99, which is 125% of the target rate for our community. Should the Town have to undertake these improvements without assistance from these programs our user rates would be \$89.82, over 156% of the target rate for the Town. Without grant funding, our residents cannot afford to make the necessary rehabilitation improvements to the wastewater system.

The Town of Culbertson is trying to be pro-active in rehabilitating our aging infrastructure, as we know violations are not far off. We appreciate your consideration of our project and sincerely hope you will assist our community in improving our system.

Sincerely,

Gordon Oelkers  
Mayor

MONTANA JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

JANUARY 26, 2011

To: Chairman Walter McNutt and Committee Members

From: Pat Byrne, Clinton Irrigation District

Subject: Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

My name is Pat Byrne and I am currently President of the Clinton Irrigation District, which is located 20 Miles East of Missoula, and serves the agricultural areas around the community of Clinton Montana.

Our District has submitted an application for a DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and are currently ranked #21, by those involved in the RRGL Ranking Recommendations.

I had every intention to attend your hearing today, but unfortunately due to a serious illness recently discovered in my wife health, I will not be able to attend. In my absence, I have ask our Engineering Firm; WWC Engineering to attend and to answer any questions or provide further information on any aspects of our project that you or committee members may request. I do however want to thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration of our Project.

To briefly review this project, our District was created in 1919, and consists of approximately 6 to 7 miles of main canal and one major lateral ditch serving the Clinton School Grounds, several Subdivisions and approximately 150 acres of productive agricultural grounds. Initially we served 1012 in the District but because of the Interstate 90 and Service Roads construction we now provide service to 812 acres.

We refer to this project as the Schoolhouse Lateral and this section of our system has been a problem area for many years. This lateral is diverted form our Main Canal and delivers water through an open ditch for approximately 1.6 miles. This lateral ditch has a section of approximately 1400 feet that needs immediate attention and has been identified as a section to be converted from open ditch to a closed pipeline delivery system. This conversion is needed since the section had to be initially constructed on a steep, rocky terrain, in very poor soils and adjacent to East Mullan Road.

That portion which parallels the road has latent hazards for those using this major Service Road.

WWC Engineering has estimated that the seepage losses for the entire length of the Proposed Project Area due to its current condition are approximately 167 acre-feet per year or 54.4 million gallons. We have great difficulty providing sufficient stream flows to allow irrigators water without rationing or rotating days of use. Other factors which support this conversion project involves, sediment transported from the Interstate System drainage, sediments deposited by the County Road Department, bank erosion, and overgrowth of dense vegetation.

WWC Engineering and the District have looked at four different alternatives to resolve the problems of the Schoolhouse Lateral, and have determined that Alternative #2 is the preferred selection. It has the greatest cost/benefit and would meet all the project goals of the Clinton Irrigation District. Alternative #2 would replace a 1400- foot reach of our open lateral ditch with an 18" PIP pipe to provide adequate capacity and flow for our water users and would increase the efficiency of the system in this section by 90% , stabilize the banks, eliminate the seepage losses, increase production and remove any potential hazards to those using the service road.

Without the assistance RRGL Program the Clinton Irrigation District would not be able undertake this major and badly needed project. We are a very small district, which over the years has not been able to properly maintain the systems canals and structures because of our limited revenues. Like many areas of the State, our proximity to a larger city; issues of subdivisions, relocation of culverts and lateral ditches due to expansion of roads etc. have placed additional burdens and constraints on finances and operations.

To conclude, we are grateful to the State of Montana, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Long Range Planning Subcommittee for your cooperation and consideration of our project.

Respectfully Yours,

Pat Byrne, President  
Clinton Irrigation District  
18181 East Mullan Rd.  
Clinton, Montana 59825

January 21, 2011

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Resource Development Bureau  
Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program

Dave Haug  
33 Willow Creek Road  
Livingston, MT 59047

RE: Livingston Ditch Water Users Association Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

First, I want to apologize that I was unable to present my testimony in person; however, I am currently in North Carolina attending a wedding. Therefore, I hope this letter will suffice and effectively portray my message to consider funding the Livingston Ditch Water Efficiency and Infrastructure Protection Project.

My name is Dave Haug I have been the Livingston Ditch Water Users Association President for approximately 10 years and I have served on the board for an additional 10 years. I enjoy the challenges and addressing the numerous problems that face the Livingston Ditch several times a year. However, we are learning to tackle these endeavors from a long-term approach. That is why we are approaching DNRC through the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program to acquire funds to solve our most paramount problem.

The Livingston Ditch Water Efficiency and Infrastructure Protection Project is essential to the longevity of the entire ditch as the proposed project entails completing a final design and installation of 600 feet of 60-inch diameter CMP. Reducing leakage from the Livingston Ditch will conserve water through the entire Livingston Ditch system by reducing the amount of water required to be supplied through the ditch to meet individual irrigator's needs.

I believe the funds requested in the proposal will be extremely beneficial and instrumental to not only water users on the ditch but the surrounding community as well. Rehabilitating this section of the ditch will alleviate maintenance efforts and reduce potential hazards to the citizens and infrastructure of the City of Livingston and Park County. This project will improve exterior slope stability, reduce health and safety issues and eliminate degradation to adjacent properties. The proposed project will also support the protection of the Yellowstone River and its tributaries by addressing water conservation and canal impairment issues.

I strongly endorse the Park CD and the Ditch Association's efforts to address water seepage problem areas through the Livingston Ditch Infrastructure Improvement Project. Thank you for your time and consideration, and again I apologize for not attending the legislative hearing but hope that this letter has portrayed my concerns and support of this important project.

Dave Haug  
Livingston Ditch Water Users Association, President





Pam Smith  
Pam Smith  
RRGL Program Manager, DNRC/CARDD  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation  
P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT. 59620

Dear Pam,

EmKayan Village will not attend the RRGL Funding Hearings on Feb. 28, 2011.

The initial rebuild of our water system (Phase 1) is complete and the results have improved the safety of the water and its control.

We appreciate the financial help from the many state agencies and hope for their continuing involvement to complete the entire program (Phase 2). We are committed to finishing this project.

Thank You,

  
Gene Tracy  
President EmKayan Village Water Board